World Heritage Convention
Cultural Heritage Nominated by
People's Republic of China,
Republic of Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyz Republic

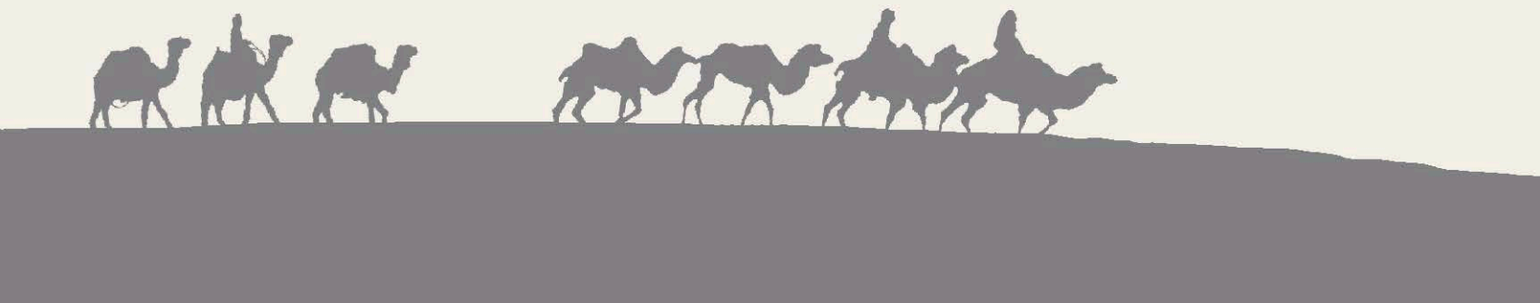
SILK ROADS:

Initial Section of the Silk Roads, the Routes Network of Tian-shan Corridor

State Administration of Cultural Heritage
of the People's Republic of China

Ministry of Culture and Information
of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Ministry of Culture and Tourism
of the Kyrgyz Republic



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R06-CN Great Wild Goose Pagoda

(1) Contribution to the Silk Roads' OUV

Great Wild Goose Pagoda was built in the 8th century AD to preserve the sutras and Buddhist figurines brought from India by Xuanzang via the Silk Roads. It is the earliest and largest one among extant square pavilion-style brick pagodas of Tang Dynasty. It also typifies the transmission and localization of Buddhist architecture along with the Buddhism dissemination in Central China. Da Ci'en Temple, where the pagoda locates, whose construction was instructed by the royalty and presided over by Xuanzang, was the most famous and splendid temple as well as one of the three major sutra translation centers in Chang'an city of Tang Dynasty. [115]Great Wild Goose Pagoda is a landmark for the Chang'an city which is among the initial cities of the Silk Roads.

(2) General Information

Great Wild Goose Pagoda is located in Yanta District, Xi'an, Shaanxi province today, i.e. the south of Chang'an city in Tang Dynasty. It is also known as Da Ci'en Pagoda. The Pagoda was built in 652 AD and then was rebuilt in 701 AD. The pagoda we see now is a renovated one in Ming Dynasty (1604). Great Wild Goose Pagoda was a seven-floor square-shaped brick building built on a square brick base. The square base is 45.5-48.5 meters long and 4.2 meters high. The pagoda is 64.1 meters high (pagoda base counted in). The ground floor of the pagoda is 25 meters long with four arches. Two stone tablets were embedded on both sides of the south door, inscribed "Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu" written by Emperor Taizong and "Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu Ji" by Emperor Gaozong.

(3) Attributes

Great Wild Goose Pagoda was built in the 7th to 8th century to preserve the sutras and Buddhist figurines brought from India by Xuanzang back to Chang'an, via the Silk Roads. Xuanzang (602 - 664), an eminent monk in early Tang Dynasty, traveled along the Silk Roads for 18 years (from 627 to 645) to the Indian Peninsula to seek for Buddhism essence. He left his footprints all over Tianzhu (Chinese name for ancient India meaning heaven)[116] and was able to bring back a large number of Buddhist scriptures, which were later translated by him. *Records of the Western Regions of the Great Tang Dynasty*, dictated by Xuanzang and recorded by his disciple Bian Ji, was Xuanzang's travel journal, which is a precious record of

Fig. R06-CN-01 Great Wild Goose Pagoda, photographed in 2007

Fig. R06-CN-02 Section Measured Drawing

contacts among China, Central Asia and India. According to inscriptions on tablets in Great Wild Goose Pagoda, the pagoda was built to preserve the Sutras and Buddhist figurines brought back by Xuanzang. Two preserved stone tablets "Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu" and "Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu Ji" further confirmed the close association between Great Wild Goose Pagoda and Buddhism dissemination along the Silk Roads.

The construction of the Great Wild Goose Pagoda was an evidence of the eastbound spread of Buddhism and Buddhist architecture from India to China. Its original version imitated stupas in the Western Regions. It was made of rammed earth inside and brick exterior facades, and cannot be climbed. In each floor there kept a Sarira. Xuanzang presided over its construction. Through later dynasties' alterations and repairs, the original stupa style evolved into brick pagoda with imitation wood structure of Central China architectural features. People could climb up the pavilion-style pagoda through stairs. This process vividly illustrated the dissemination of Buddhist architecture into China and its gradual localization[117].

Fig. R06-CN-03 Map showing Numbering of Remains of Nominated Site

Table for Numbering of Great Wild Goose Pagoda

Category	Content	Number
Building (1)	Great Wild Goose Pagoda	1
Stone Carving (4)	East Lintel Carving	4
	West Lintel Carving	2
	South Lintel Carving	3
	North Lintel Carving	5
Stone Tablet (2)	"Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu" Stone Tablet	6
	"Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu Ji" Stone Tablet	7

LEGEND

Boundary of Nominated Property

Boundary of Remains Above Ground

N

0 25 50 100M

Fig. R06-CN-04 Great Wild Goose Pagoda

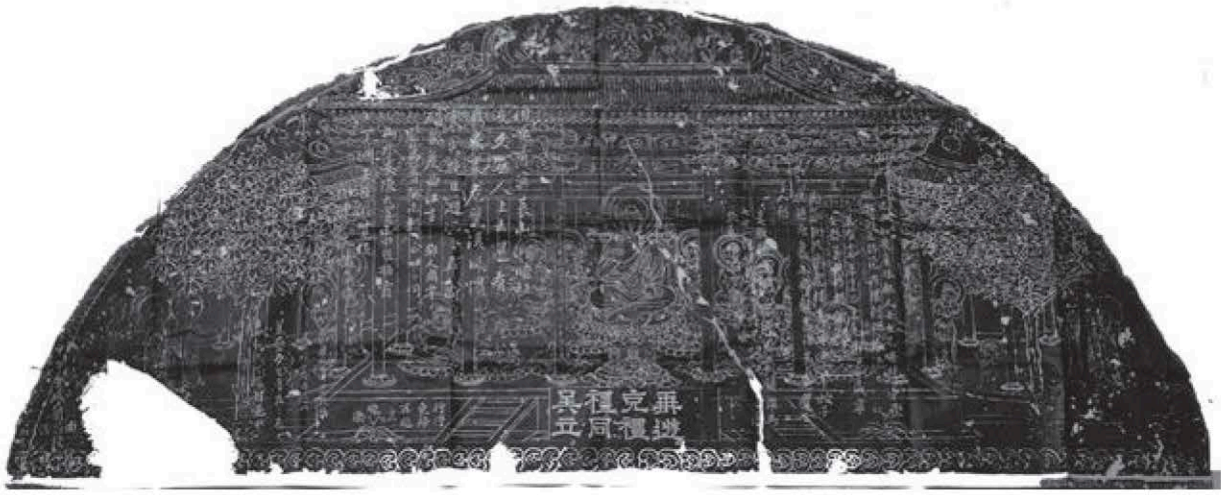

Fig. R06-CN-05 West Lintel Stone Carving of the ground fooor

Fig. R06-CN-06 "Da Tang Sanzang Shengjiao Xu", Head of Stone Tablet

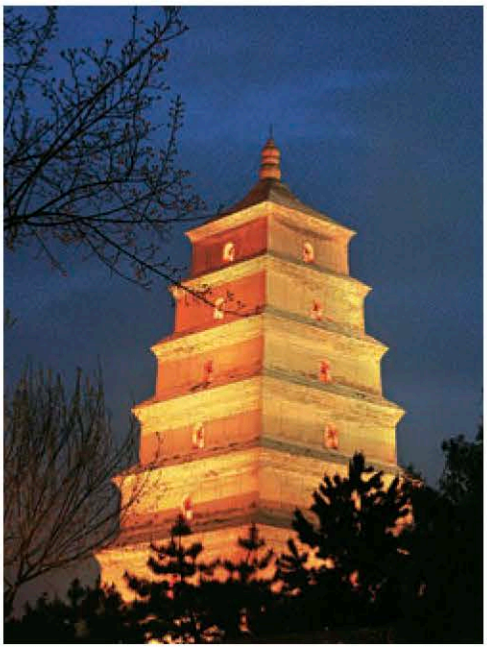

Fig. R06-CN-07 Night View of Great Goose Pagoda

Fig. R06-CN-08 Figurins in the Stone Tablet

R07-CN Small Wild Goose Pagoda

(1) Contribution to the Silk Roads' OUV

The Jianfu Temple, where the Small Wild Goose Pagoda was located in, was one of the three sutra translation centers in Chang'an City of Tang Dynasty and it also witnessed the history of eastbound transmission of Buddhism from India and the prevalence of Buddhism in Chang'an City of Tang Dynasty. Small Wild Goose Pagoda was built in the beginning of the 8th Century and well preserved to this day. As a dense-eaves brick pagoda, it offers precious evidence of the dissemination of the Buddhist architecture into Central China.

(2) General Information

Small Wild Goose Pagoda is situated in Yanta District, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province. Built in 707 AD of Tang Dynasty, it was also known as Jianfu Temple Pagoda. In the beginning it was a 15-tiers dense-eaves brick pagoda. Having gone through several earthquake damages and restorations in history, the current pagoda has 13 tiers, 43.38 meters high and composed of three parts, viz., the base, the main body and the top. The base of pagoda is a 3.2m-tall square-plan mound (side length 23.38m) built of earth and with brick exterior focades. There also preserves an underground shrine. The body of pagoda is hollow inside with single-layer wall, the inner facade of which is attached by brick steps that lead to the upper floors. The height of the ground floor is 6.83m and that of the upper stories decrease upward.

(3) Attributes

The Small Wild Goose Pagoda was directly associated to a major event of Buddhism transmission via the Silk Roads - Yijing's westbound Buddhist pilgrimage on Maritime Silk Road to India. Yi Jing (635-713) was an eminent monk in Tang Dynasty and one of the four major Buddhist scriptures translators[118]. He left Guangdong in 670 and sailed westward to Indian Peninsula to bring back sutras and he returned in 695. After his return, Yi Jing was engaged in sutra translation in the Jianfu Temple in Chang'an City and died there. The Small Wild Goose Pagoda was built to preserve the sutras and figurines brought back to China by Yi Jing. The Jianfu Temple, where the Small Wild Goose Pagoda was located in, was one of the three sutra translation centers in Chang'an of Tang Dynasty and it witnessed the prevalence of Buddhism in Tang Dynasty.

The Small Wild Goose Pagoda is the earliest extant example of Tang Dynasty dense-eaves brick pagoda ; it thus offers us precious evidence for the early period transmission of this Buddhist architectural type into China[119].

Fig. R07-CN -01 Small Wild Goose Pagoda

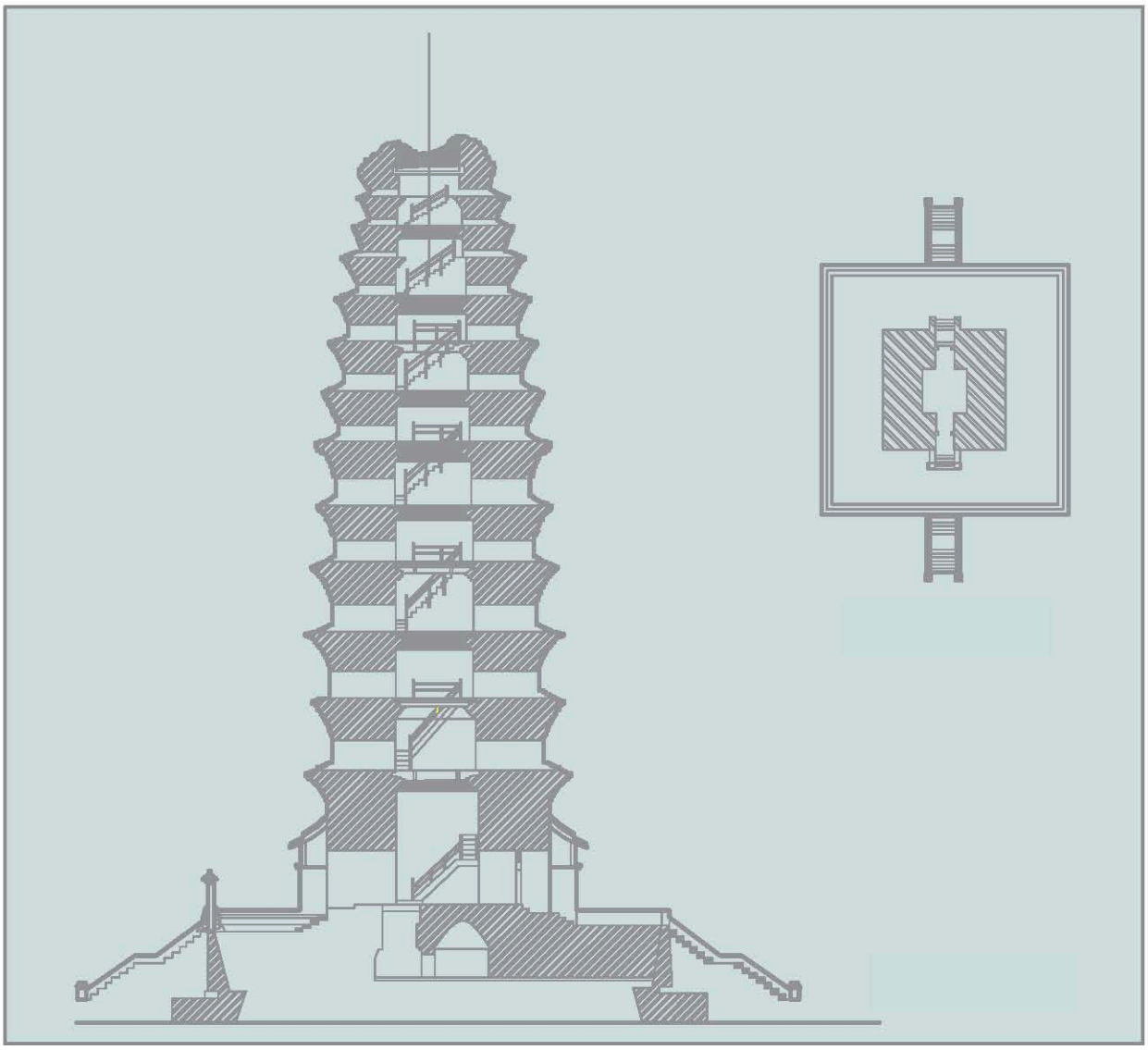

Fig. R07-CN-02 Plan of the ground floor and Section drawings

Fig. R07-CN-03 Monk Yijing

Yi Jing (635 to 713)

Chinese Tang Dynasty monk, traveler, one of the "Four Major Buddhist Scriptures Translators" of China. A native of Fanyang (now Zhuo county of Hebei province) (some say it's Qizhou, modern Jinan of Shandong province), his family name was Zhang and courtesy name Wenming. He sailed along the Maritime Silk Roads for India at 671 and returned to China in 695. After returning home, he translated a large number of sutras. In the first lunar month of 713 (second year of Xiantian period of Tang Dynasty), he passed away in the Jianfu Temple of Chang'an. His two books *Buddhist Monk's Pilgrimage of the Tang Dynasty* and *Account of Buddhism sent from the South Seas* are important works to understand the China and India Buddhist exchanges and cultures and customs along the Silk Roads. Indian scholar R. Thaper commented: "In the absence of Faxian, Xuanzang and Yi Jing, there is no way to recapture the history of India."

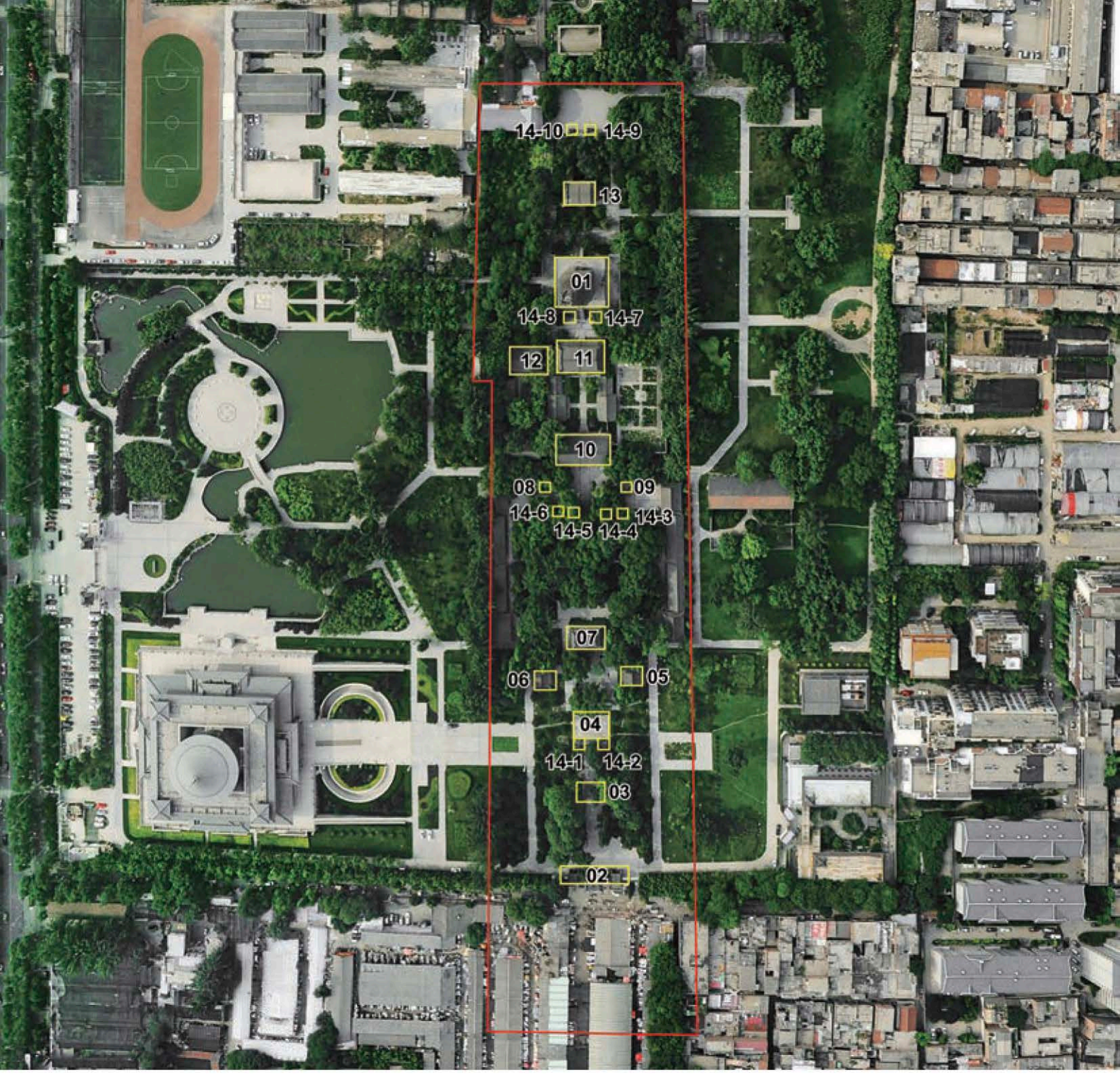

Fig. R07-CN-04 Map showing Numbering of Remains of Nominated Site

LEGEND

Boundary of Nominated Property

Boundary of Remains Above Ground

N

0 25 50 100M

Table for Numbering of Small Wild Goose Pagoda

Category		Content	Number
Small Wild Goose Pagoda	Building (13)	Small Wild Goose Pagoda	01
		Front Gate	02
		Site of Jingang Hall	03
		Site of Tianwang Hall	04
		Drum Tower	05
		Bell Tower	06
		Cishi Pavilion	07
		Western Smaller Pavilion	08
		Eastern Smaller Pavilion	09
		Main Hall	10
		Cangjing Pavilion	11
		Fangzhang Hall	12
		Baiyi Pavilion	13
	Stone Tablet (10)	"Inscription for Refurbishment of Great Jianfu Temple" Stone Tablet	14-1
		"Inscription for Refurbishment of Great Jianfu Temple by Emperor" Stone Tablet	14-2
		"Inscription for Refurbishment of Jianfu Temple " Stone Tablet	14-3
		"Royal Edict" Stone Tablet	14-4
		"Inscription for Reconstruction of Jianfu Buddha Temple by Emperor" Stone Tablet	14-5
		"Map for Halls of Jianfu Temple" Stone Tablet (Up) "Inscription for Jianfu Temple Diliang" (Bottom)	14-6
		"Inscription for Repairment of Jianfu Pagoda" Stone Tablet	14-7
		"Origin of Jianfu Temple "Stone Tablet	14-8
		"Inscription for Refurbishment of Dizang Wang Hall of Jianfu Temple" Stone Tablet	14-9
		"Inscription for Refurbishment of Jianfu Temple " Stone Tablet	14-10

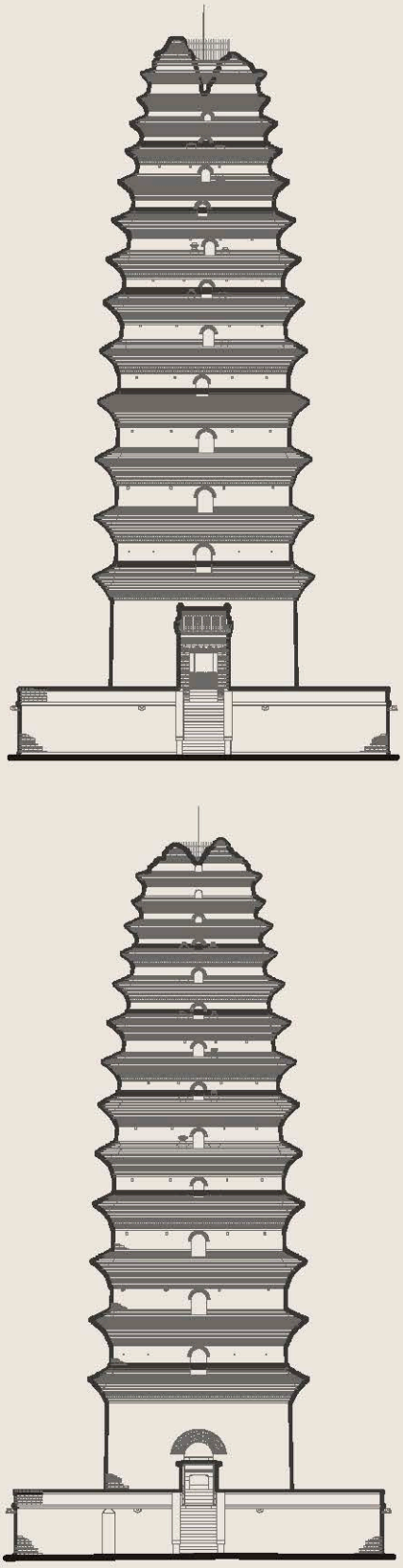

Fig. R07-CN-05 Elevation and Section of the pagoda

Fig. R07-CN-06 Front Gate of Jianfu Temple

Fig. R07-CN-07 North Gate of Jianfu Temple

Fig. R07-CN-08 Scenery of Four Seasons

Fig. R07-CN-09 Small Wild Goose Pagoda

Fig. R07-CN-10 Movable Cultural Relics